

## DOMESTICATION OF ANIMALS

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dog, the pig and the fowl. Cattle may also have been tamed from a stock which lived in tropical forests like the Indian bison and the buffalo of the present day. To domesticate animals of such large size was a great achievement. cattle not only supplied man with milk and flesh, but lent their strength to cultivate with the plough. and we can understand how they came to be regarded as wealth *par excellence* and were accepted as the symbols of private property. Sheep and goats would be added by tribes which left the plains for the mountains : the horse, the camel, and the ass would be met by the wanderers as, in their northward course, they emerged upon the plains of Central Asia and spread towards Egypt. The strange conditions of domesticated life stimulated variations in these captive animals : peculiarities that arose were fixed by breeding, so that in the course of time they departed very widely from their ancestors in colour, form, and size. But, if permitted to regain their freedom, they will still revert to their original type.

Not less momentous was the discovery that man could intervene between Nature and her plants, making them to grow in uniform crops instead of sporadically as in the jungle. and improving the quality and quantity of their produce. So long a period has elapsed since the principal food plants were reclaimed from the

wilderness that the ancestors of  
many of them

¶ Upon the companionship of man and his brute  
associates  
certain parasites have built up a very peculiar course  
of livelihood.  
The tape-worm of man passes its embryonic stages  
as a *trichina*.  
in the tissues of the pig. whence it passes to man by  
the eating of  
pig's flesh. It is disconcerting to learn that a tape-  
worm of the  
dog's occurs as a *trichina* in human tissues. There  
are traditions  
of peoples who maintained packs of hounds as  
cemeteries for the  
disposal of their dead. and we may conjecture that in  
the days of  
primal darkness the dog was drawn to man by  
this gruesome  
office.